



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.2413 | FAX (517) 373.5144
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/

For Immediate Release
January 14, 2004

Contact: Jamie Callahan
(866) 525-5637

Sen. Allen's Upper Peninsula snowmobile tour 'amazing'

Lansing – This past weekend, state Sen. Jason Allen of Traverse City and fellow legislators wrapped up a six-day snowmobile tour that took them more than 1,000 miles across the Upper Peninsula.

“The tour was amazing,” Allen said. “Traveling by snowmobile is a great way to experience the Upper Peninsula and all the opportunities it has to offer. I met many wonderful people and saw several places I’d like to visit again.”

Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor, Allen witnessed firsthand the major economic impact snowmobiling and tourism have on northern Michigan.

“In addition to Michigan’s snowmobilers, enthusiasts from all over the Midwest travel to the U.P. to sled,” Allen said. “Snowmobile tourism is critical to the success of many business owners and their families. Be it from gasoline, hotels, restaurants, or general stores, the revenues generated from snowmobiling creates jobs and keeps businesses afloat.”

Allen was joined on the trip by House Speaker Rick Johnson of LeRoy and state Reps. Tom Casperson of Escanaba and John Pastor of Livonia as part of the Upper Peninsula tour via snowmobile.

The trek began and ended in Sault Ste. Marie, with the legislators traveling as far as Copper Harbor in the Keweenaw Peninsula and covering 1,000 miles over the six day journey. Allen and his colleagues visited Brimley, Raco, Paradise, the Tahquamenon Falls area and Trout Lake in the 37th District. Other stops on the trip included Munising, Deerton, Marquette, Houghton, Three Lakes and Copper Harbor.

This week, January 11-17th, marks Snowmobile Safety Week. Michigan has more than 6,000 miles of groomed trails offering exciting terrain of forest and field to both residents and visitors. With almost 300,000 registered snowmobiles, safe and responsible driving is essential for every enthusiast on a sled.

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Editor's note: A photos from Senator Allen's trip are available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm>